

REMARKS

Claim 22 has been added. Thus, claims 1-22 are now pending in the application. No new matter has been added. Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 10 and 15. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable.

Claims 1-9, 11-14, and 16-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,386,075 to Shiao.

Shiao discloses a swingable handle for a hand tool, such as a screwdriver, wherein a rear handle body 20 may be deflected along a plane relative to a front handle body 10 and locked in place via a spring-loaded coupling member 30. See *Shiao*, Col. 1, ll. 49-53; Fig. 3; Fig. 7. Specifically, the coupling member 30 includes a retaining protrusion 311, which fits into a retaining groove 122, 123, 124 formed in the front handle body 10. See *Shiao*, Col. 3, ll. 36 – 55; Fig. 3. Thus, to change position of the front handle body 10 relative to the rear handle body 20, a user may retract the coupling member 30, radially deflect the front or rear handle body, and then re-engage the coupling member 30.

Claim 1 recites “a resilient *vibration damping assembly* interposed between the stationary and mobile portions to restrict angular movement of the mobile portion on the pivot assembly about the stationary portion substantially within a given range.” The Examiner contends that this limitation is anticipated by Shiao’s description of the coupling member 30 and the retaining grooves 122-124.

The device of Shiao is not intended to dampen vibrations, nor does it actually accomplish such a result. Shiao nowhere mentions that the device may be used in

conjunction with tools producing vibrations. Further, Shiao nowhere discusses a vibration damping effect of any of the components. If vibrations were produced at the front body portion 10 (i.e., the “stationary portion”), the spring-loaded coupling member 30 would fail to dampen vibrations because the angle of the rear body portion 20 is locked with respect to the front body portion 10. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Shiao fails to teach a “vibration damping assembly interposed between the stationary and mobile portions to restrict angular movement of the mobile portion on the pivot assembly about the stationary portion substantially within a given range.”

For at least the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn. Because claims 2-9, 11-14, and 16 depend from, and therefore include all the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of these claims should also be withdrawn.

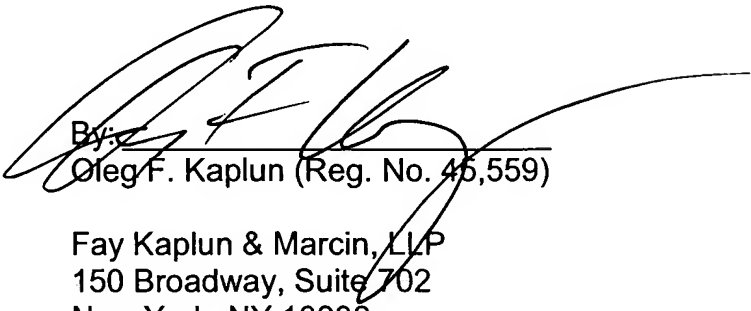
Claim 17 recites substantially the same limitations as claim 1. Specifically, claim 17 recites “interposing a resilient vibration-damping assembly between the stationary and mobile tool portions to restrict angular movement of the mobile tool portion on the pivot assembly about the stationary tool portion substantially within a given angular range.” Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claim 17 is also allowable. Because claims 18-21 depend from and therefore include all the limitations of claim 17, these claims should also be allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted:

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